



SAFE CHILDREN STRONG FAMILIES REDESIGN



June 2012

DCFS Acronyms

Acronym Definition

FR Family Reunification - Time-limited protective services designed to remedy abuse when a child cannot safely remain in the home

VFR Voluntary Family Reunification – Provision of non-court, voluntary FR services

FM Family Maintenance - Time-limited, in-home protective services designed to prevent or remedy abuse to prevent separation of children from their families

VFM Voluntary Family Maintenance - Provision of non-court, voluntary FM services

ARS Alternative Response Services – 3 months of Family Pres-like services

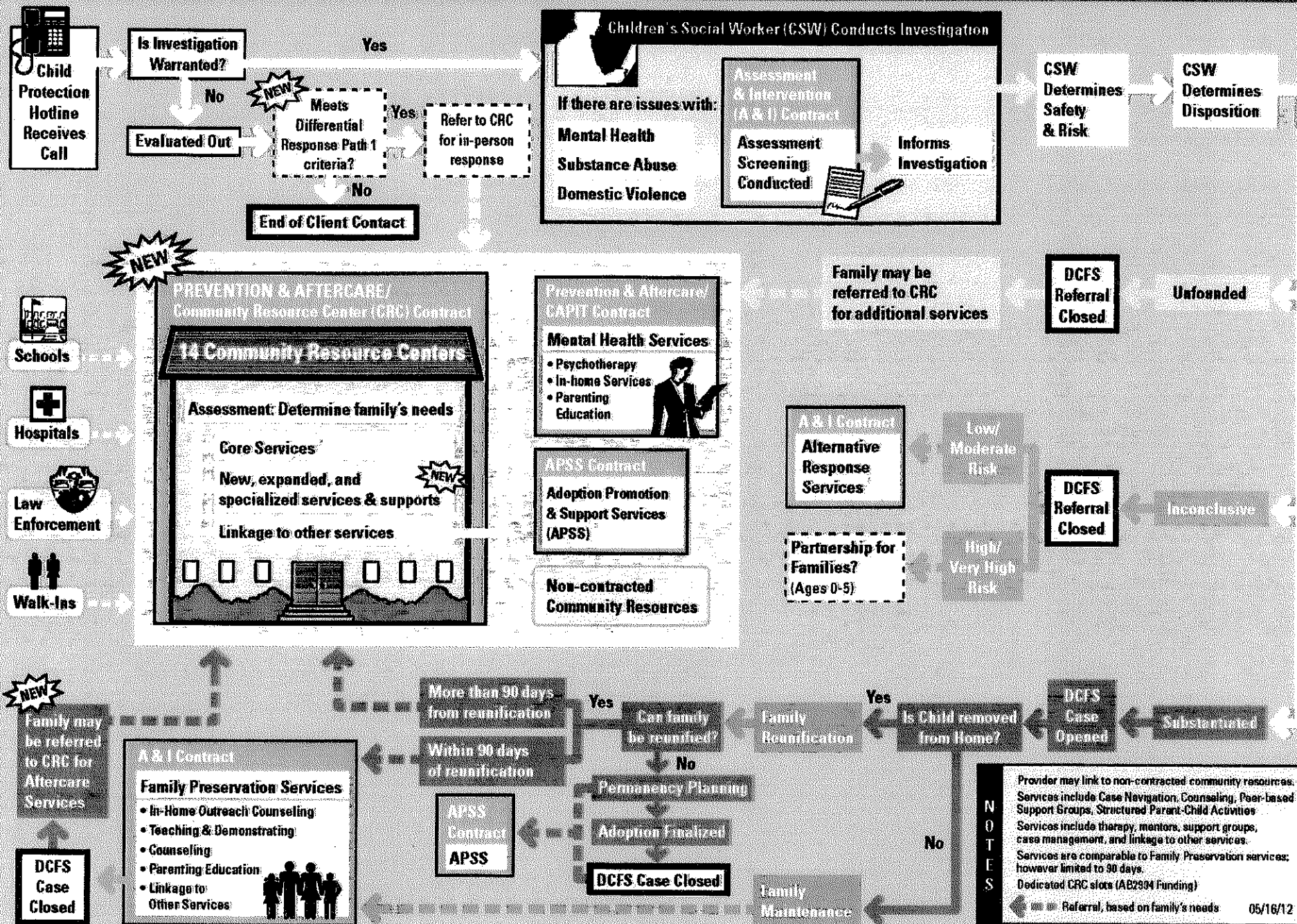
UFA Upfront Assessment – Mental health, domestic violence, and substance abuse assessments designed to connect families with treatments and/or services

Program Definitions

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1. Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)	▪ Established under Title IV-B to provide funding for community-based family support and preservation services to promote better outcomes for children.
2. Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT)	▪ Funded through Assembly Bill 1733, the CAPIT program funds family service and counseling agencies to provide individual, group and family counseling, parent education, in home counseling services and case management.
3. Family Preservation Services (FPS)	▪ An integrated, comprehensive, community-based approach to service delivery that ensures child safety while strengthening and preserving families who are experiencing problems in family functioning characterized by child abuse, neglect or exploitation.
4. Preventive Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP)	▪ Community-based program that aims to provide healthier communities, stronger families and thriving children.
5. Family Support Services (FSS)	▪ A proactive approach toward the prevention of problems by working with families to function more effectively and fosters a sense of family, self-sufficiency, and community empowerment.
6. Time Limited Family Reunification (TLFR)	▪ Provides timely, intensive and responsive substance abuse services to families in order to facilitate reunification.
7. Adoptions Promotion & Support (APSS)	▪ Provides services to children and families either currently or previously involved with DCFS and Probation who are in any stage of the adoption process.
8. Partnerships For Families (PFF)	▪ Provides services and supports to high risk pregnant women and families with children ages 0-5 to prevent child abuse and neglect.

SAFE CHILDREN & STRONG FAMILIES SERVICE DELIVERY CONTINUUM



Adoption Promotion and Support Services (APSS)

Adoption Promotion and Support Services is a county-wide, SPA-based, specialized adoption-focused program which seeks to encourage, expedite and maintain adoptions of LA County foster children.

DCFS and Probation children are eligible.

Services are available at any point in the adoption process, including for hesitant children and finalized adoptive families.

There are five mandated services: (1) Therapy: which includes individual, group and family-the focus is the child; (2) Mentoring for adults and the referred child; (3) Support Groups; (4) Case Management; and (5) Linkage to services outside the scope of practice for providers.

Redesign Goals

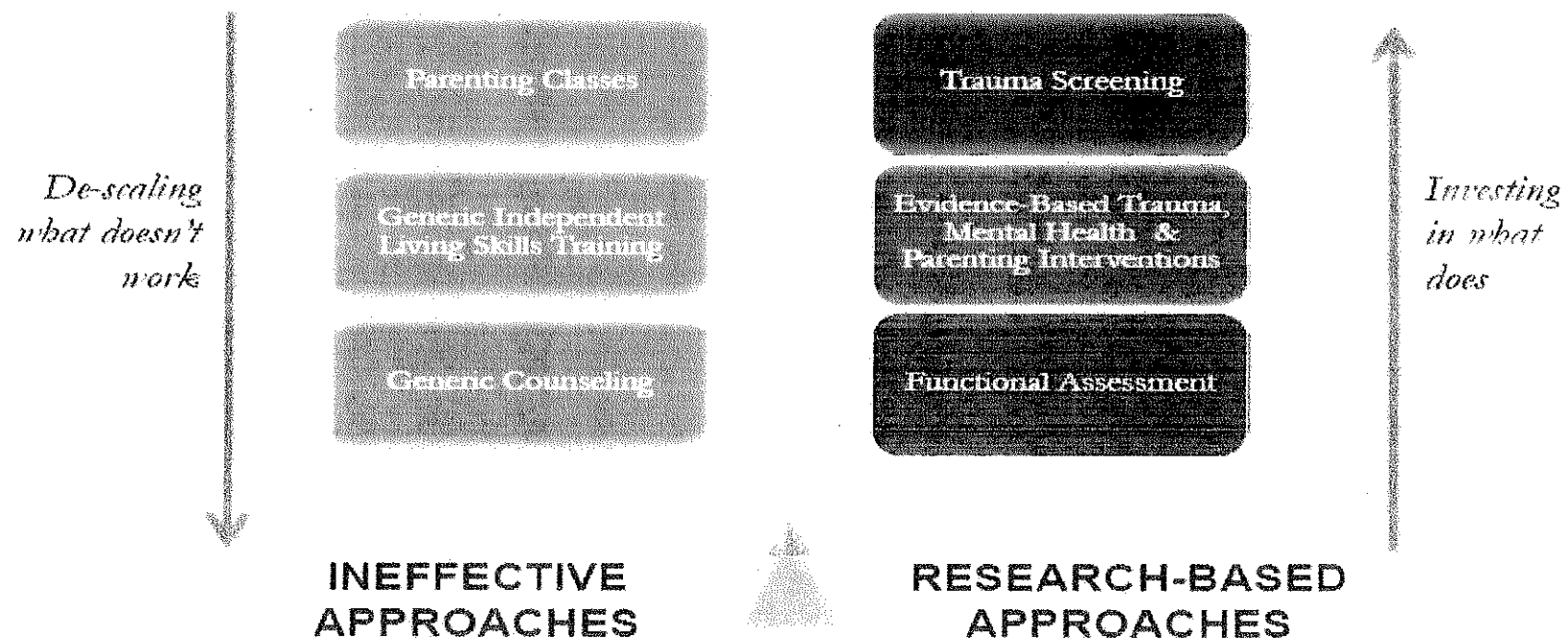
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- ❑ Establish a comprehensive continuum of care for families and strengthen parental protective factors to result in improved outcomes for children and their families.
- ❑ Increase the availability and access to an array of family resources, quality services, and needed supports.
- ❑ Build community partnerships and capacity to strengthen the safety net to keep children safe and strengthen families.
- ❑ Streamline program funding to more effectively support prevention, early intervention, specialized treatment and post-permanency services for children and their families.

What's New

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Innovation	Description
14 Community Family Resource Center (CFRC) sites	Services, activities, resources and support delivered through a geographically based site designed to prevent child abuse and neglect, strengthen families and promote community connections.
Differential Response Path 1	Prevention services delivered through the CFRC and provided to families when allegations of child maltreatment reported to the Child Abuse Hotline are evaluated out because they do not meet the legal criteria of child abuse or neglect and there are NO CHILD SAFETY FACTORS; however, the family is in need of resources, services and support to prevent future child maltreatment and/or DCFS involvement.
Specialized Services and Supports	Prevention services delivered through the CFRC that utilizes flexible funding to implement new or promising practices or expand an agency's service array to address specific community needs. <i>**DCFS approval is required for use of these funds</i>
Aftercare Services	Services and supports delivered through the CFRC and provided to DCFS referred children and families who have exited the public child welfare system through reunification or legal guardianship, and are in need of services to prevent subsequent child maltreatment and DCFS involvement
APSS Services	Adoption Promotion and Support Services (APSS) are provided to Probation involved children and families who are either currently or previously involved with DCFS and Probation and who are in various stages of the adoption process.
Coordinated Service Delivery across the Continuum	Increased focus on agency collaboration and coordination to reduce duplication and fragmentation of services. Increased focus on networking and community capacity building to respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families.
Performance Based Contracting	Alignment of contract service deliverables with performance expectations in order to achieve desirable child and family outcomes. Implementation of Quality Assurance measures to promote continuous change and improvement.

De-scaling What Doesn't Work, Scaling Up What Does



Redesign Performance Outcomes

- Decreased occurrence of child abuse and/or neglect.
- Reduction in the number of children in out of home care.
- Increase in the number of children reunified.
- Strengthening of parent(s)/caregiver(s) protective factors.
- Increase number of stabilizations achieved and maintained in adoptive homes pre and post adoption finalization.
- Increase progress toward adoption for children on the adoption track.

**Department of Children and Family Services
System Improvement Plan Goals
And
Current National Outcome Standards**

S1.1 No Recurrence of Maltreatment	
Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation during the first 6 months of the year, what percent were not victims of another substantiated allegation within the next 6 month period.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	94.6
S2.1 No Maltreatment in Foster Care	
Of all children served in foster care during the year, what percent were not victims of a substantiated maltreatment allegation by a foster parent or facility staff member.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	99.68
C1.1 Reunification Within 12 months (Exit Cohort)	
Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who have been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what percent were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from home.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	75.2
C1.2 Median Time to Reunification (Exit Cohort)	
Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year who have been in foster care for 8 days or longer, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to reunification.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	5.4
C1.3 Reunification Within 12 months (Entry Cohort)	
Percentage of all children entering foster care for the first time in a 6 month period who remained in foster care for 8 days or longer who discharged from foster care to reunification in less than 12 months from the date of latest removal from home.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	48.4
C1.4 Re-entry Following Reunification (Exit Cohort)	
Percentage of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the year, who re-entered foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	9.9
C2.1 Adoption Within 24 Months (Exit Cohort)	
Percentage of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, who were discharged in less than 24 months from the date of the latest removal from home.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	36.6

C2.2 Median Time to Adoption (Exit Cohort)	
The median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to adoption of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	27.3
C2.3 Adoption Within 12 Months (17 Months in Care)	
Of all children discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption during the year, what was the median length of stay (in months) from the date of latest removal from home until the date of discharge to adoption.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	22.7
C2.4 Legally Free Within 6 months (17 Months in Care)	
Of all children in foster care for 17 continuous months or longer and not legally free for adoption on the first day of the year, what percent became legally free within the next 6 months.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	10.9
C3.1 Exits to Permanency (24 Months in Care)	
Of all children in foster care for 24 months or longer on the first day of the year, what percent were discharged to a permanent home by the end of the year and prior to turning 18.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	29.1
C3.2 Exits to Permanency (Legally Free at Exit)	
Of all children discharged from foster care during the year who were legally free for adoption, what percent were discharged to a permanent home prior to turning 18.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	98.0
C3.3 In-care 3 years or Longer (Emancipated/Age 18)	
Of all children in foster care during the year who were either discharged to emancipation or turned 18 while still in care, what percent had been in foster care for 3 years or longer?	
NATIONAL STANDARD	37.5
C4.1 Placement Stability (8 Days to 12 Months in Care)	
Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in foster care at least 8 days but less than 12 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	86.0
C4.3 Placement Stability (At Least 24 Months in Care)	
Of all children served in foster care during the year who were in foster care for at least 24 months, what percent had two or fewer placement settings.	
NATIONAL STANDARD	41.8



County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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PHILIP L. BROWNING
Director

June 6, 2012

To: All Staff

From: Philip L. Browning, Director

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

DEPARTMENTAL VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

As you know, the Department has been engaged in strategic planning efforts for a period of time, and in early April, we obtained the services of an outside expert, Dr. Alan Glassman, to assist us in finalizing our strategic plan. Dr. Glassman comes to us with a wealth of experience, having assisted numerous other public agencies in developing strategic plans, including the Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health and Public Social Services.

Over the past two months, in addition to conducting CSW and SCSW focus groups and interviews with internal and external stakeholders, Dr. Glassman has worked with the Executive Team and Department managers to establish the Department's Vision, Mission and Values. The Department's Vision and Mission provide us with a sense of purpose, *what* we will do, while our Values define *how* we will do our work. I am pleased to provide you with the attached document that outlines our Department's Vision, Mission and Values, as follows:

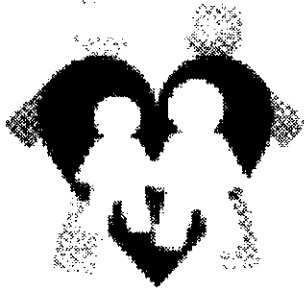
- **Vision:** Children thrive in safe families and supportive communities.
- **Mission:** By 2015 DCFS will practice a uniform service delivery model that measurably improves: Child Safety, Permanency, and Access to effective and caring services.
- **Values:** Cultural Sensitivity, Leadership, Accountability, Integrity and Responsiveness.

This document will guide our work over the next several years. Please review it, post it in your office space and discuss it with your colleagues. Every employee should become familiar with this information and share it with our partners and stakeholders.

Under our Vision and Mission, we will soon develop goals, strategies, objectives and action plans and hope to have a draft strategic plan for your review soon. I will keep you posted on our progress. Thank you.

Attachment

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"



Department of Children and Family Services

Vision:

Children thrive in safe families and supportive communities.

Mission:

By 2015 DCFS will practice a uniform service delivery model that measurably improves:

- Child safety
- Permanency
- Access to effective and caring services

Values:

Cultural Sensitivity: We acknowledge, respect, value, and understand the importance of cultural diversity in all aspects of child welfare practice.

Leadership: We engage, motivate, and inspire others to collaboratively achieve common goals through example, vision, and commitment.

Accountability: We accept responsibility for our actions, behavior, and results.

Integrity: We are honest, forthcoming, and transparent, always acting in accordance with the highest ethical standards and values.

Responsiveness: We take needed action in a timely manner.